

CLAIMS

Sub
AI
1. A box blank formed from plastics material and comprising a plurality of hinge elements connecting a plurality of panels for forming sides of the box, the hinge elements and panels being formed from different plastics materials.

2. A blank as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hinge elements are formed from a plastics material having a greater toughness but less rigidity than the plastics material forming the panels.

3. A blank as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hinge elements and panels are formed from plastics materials belonging to the same family of compounds.

4. A blank as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hinge elements are formed from rubber-modified polypropylene.

5. A blank as claimed in claim 1 wherein the panels are formed from polypropylene.

Sub C²⁵
6. A blank as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hinge elements are formed from a plastics material having a lower melt index than the plastics material from which the panels are formed.

Sub
7. A blank as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hinge elements include a plurality of projections formed thereon.

8. A blank as claimed in claim 1 wherein the panels include structural panels for forming the sides of the box and load bearing panels, the load bearing panels being connected to the

structural panels by hinge elements formed not perpendicular to the intended direction of load support provided by the load bearing panels.

Sub
A2
9. A box blank comprising a plurality of panels connected by hinge elements, the panels including structural panels for forming the sides of the box and load bearing panels, the load bearing panels being connected to the structural panels by hinge elements formed not perpendicular to the intended direction of load support provided by the load bearing panels, the panels and hinge elements being formed from plastics.

549
10. A blank as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hinge elements are formed from rubber-modified polyethylene.

11. A blank as claimed in claim 1 wherein the panels are formed from polyethylene.

12. A blank as claimed in claim 1 wherein the panels and hinge elements are fused together.

13. A blank as claimed in claim 7 wherein the projections protrude from the panels.

Add
A3